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## Glomerular Filtration Rate as a Useful Measurement in Patients With Sepsis

I THINK one of the most useful measurements you can make in a patient with sepsis or any other patient is the glomerular filtration rate (GFR)—just a one-hour creatine and clearance determination. Any laboratory will do it; it is simple to do. Once you have gotten the GFR up to normal, because of the phenomenon of autoregulation you cannot drive it any higher no matter how much fluid you give. And it is the GFR that determines how much nitrogen is going to be excreted. So I think the answer is that when you have given enough fluid, so that the GFR is up to a relatively normal value for that patient, further fluid cannot possibly be of any value in clearing nitrogenous wastes.

—SAMUEL R. POWERS, JR., MD, *Albany, New York*  
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